

Sea Level Rise and Drought Response Activities

San Francisco Bay Water Board

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Groundwater Cleanup

- Require prompt cleanup of sites with groundwater contamination ahead of sea level rise impacts, addressing sites nearest sensitive waters (for drinking or aquatic life beneficial uses) as highest priority
- Require sites with groundwater contamination and land disposal facilities located adjacent to or near the Bay, rivers, or the ocean to submit “long term flood protection” plans that consider sea level rise

Permitting Discharge and Bay/Wetland Fill

- Issue permits for capital projects and ongoing operation and maintenance for flood management that restore tidal marsh, riparian habitat and protect existing development from the effects of sea level rise with innovative and green technology, e.g., horizontal levees, reuse of dredge materials, creation of floodplain benches along creeks where space is available
- Require the wastewater treatment plants (37) that discharge to the San Francisco Bay to consider sea level rise and climate change as part of evaluating nutrient upgrade options via the San Francisco Bay Nutrients Watershed Permit
- Require other permitted dischargers to regularly review and evaluate facilities and operational practices to adapt to the potential impacts of sea level rise and storm surge

Planning and Policies

- Update existing policies for wetland fill and use of treated wastewater for wetlands to address regulatory challenges for large-scale wetland restoration and shoreline adaptation projects
- Participate in regional planning efforts and interagency project development to provide guidance on our regulatory requirements and promote opportunities to implement innovative solutions that protect beneficial uses for future generations, (e.g., South Bay Shoreline Levee Project, Novato Creek Dredging Project, Bothin Marsh, and Resiliency by Design)
- Support regional planning efforts for sea level rise adaptation including the San Francisco Estuary Institute’s operational landscape unit project to identify shoreline adaptation strategies, developing a Wetland Regional Monitoring Program for tidal wetlands, the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture, Bay Conservation and Development Commission’s Rising Tides Program and the Coastal and Oceans Resources Working Group of the Ocean Protection Council.

Water Recycling and Stormwater Management

- Issue permits for *water recycling* projects that improve the resilience of water supply, such as the City and County of San Francisco's regulatory program for the reuse of non-potable water sources.
- Coordinate with local regulatory agencies to plan non-potable water reuse strategies, both public (municipal wastewater treatment facilities) and private (technology company campuses) *water recycling*.
- Support the State Water Board's Strategy to Optimize Resource Management of Stormwater which seeks to evolve *stormwater management* in California by considering it a valuable resource to be captured, put to multiple beneficial uses to improve water quality and supply.
- Regulate municipal *stormwater* discharges with increasing emphasis and requirements for green infrastructure and stormwater capture as beneficial strategies for water quality control.